

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

On motion by Mr. HOAR that the oath prescribed by law be administered to Mr. Wilkinson Call as a Senator from the State of Florida.
Ordered, That the consideration of the motion be postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. HOAR. If that motion should be adopted by the Senate I give notice that I shall move that the credentials or other documents relating to the case of Mr. Davidson and Mr. Call be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, with direction to report in regard to the same. It seems to me that there is a very strong case for administering the oath to Mr. Call at once, yet I think also that there should be a provision for hearing parties hereafter if there should be any claim that the Senate has acted unadvisedly.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the motion of the Senator from Massachusetts.

The motion was agreed to.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Senator elect from Florida will come forward and receive the oath of office.

Mr. Call was escorted to the Vice-President's desk by Mr. PASCO, and the oath prescribed by law having been administered to him, he took his seat in the Senate.

Mr. HOAR. I move that the papers in regard to the claim of Mr. Robert H. M. Davidson to a seat in the Senate from the State of Florida now occupied by Mr. WILKINSON CALL be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, with direction to investigate the matter and report to the Senate at an early day.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the motion made by the Senator from Massachusetts.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. HALE. I move that the papers on file in relation to the contest in the State of Idaho by Mr. W. H. Clagett take the same course as that under the motion of the Senator from Massachusetts with reference to Mr. Davidson—that they be taken from the files and referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, which committee shall examine the case and report to the Senate at an early day.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the motion made by the Senator from Maine.

The motion was agreed to.

RECESS.

Mr. SHERMAN (at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p. m.). I move that the Senate take a recess until 2 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to; and at the expiration of the recess (at 2 o'clock p. m.) the Senate resumed its session.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

At 2 o'clock and 35 minutes p. m., Mr. KERR, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, appeared below the bar of the Senate and delivered the following message:

Mr. President, I am directed by the House of Representatives to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that CHARLES F. CRISP, a Representative from the State of Georgia, has been elected Speaker; that JAMES KERR, a citizen of the State of Pennsylvania, has been elected Clerk; and that the House is ready to proceed to business.

Also, that the House of Representatives has passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to join the committee appointed on the part of the Senate, to wait on the President of the United States and notify him that a quorum of the two Houses has assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

In accordance with the above, the Speaker announced the appointment of Mr. BLOUNT, Mr. BRECKINRIDGE of Kentucky, and Mr. REED as members of said committee.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. What is the further pleasure of the Senate?

Mr. SHERMAN. If the Senate choose, I think a recess might be taken for half an hour. The members of the committee on the part of the House of Representatives to wait upon the President have not yet presented themselves. I take it the Senate will probably prefer to conclude the proceeding to-day and have the message communicated from the President rather than wait until to-morrow or later on. If the Senate will take a recess, perhaps within half an hour the answer of the President may be returned.

Mr. HARRIS. I will state to the Senator from Ohio that I was informed a few moments since that the members of the House of Representatives are now engaged in drawing for seats, and it will probably take half an hour or an hour to complete it.

Mr. SHERMAN. I am told that is all completed so far as the three gentlemen whose names have been sent here are concerned, and they will probably be here in a few minutes.

Mr. HARRIS. It may be that they have drawn.

Mr. SHERMAN. However, I have no objection, if the Senate wishes to adjourn, to communicating with the President to-morrow.

Mr. HARRIS. If the committee will wait upon the President this evening it is not probable that at so late an hour as it would be he would likely communicate his message to the two Houses before to-morrow morning.

Mr. SHERMAN. What does the Senator from Tennessee suggest?

Mr. HARRIS. I am strongly inclined to think that the Senate might as well adjourn and let the committee perform its duty to-morrow morning. But of course I am perfectly content to take any course that the Senator from Ohio may choose to suggest under the circumstances.

Mr. SHERMAN. The trouble is, there might be some delay in getting the committee together in the morning, while all are in the building now, and I think the members of the House are expecting to come over at any moment.

RECESS.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. Does the Senator from Ohio submit a motion for a recess?

Mr. SHERMAN (at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p. m.). I move that the Senate take a recess until 3 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to; and at the expiration of the recess the Senate resumed its session.

Mr. VOORHEES (at 3 o'clock and 19 minutes p. m.). The other House has just adjourned, and I suppose it is not worth while for us to remain here expecting a message from the President this afternoon. I rise for the purpose of moving that the Senate adjourn, unless some Senator on the other side of the Chamber thinks we should remain here for some other purpose. If not, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Senator from Indiana moves that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and (at 3 o'clock and 20 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Wednesday, December 9, 1891, at 12 o'clock m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, December 8, 1891.

The House met at 12 o'clock m., and was called to order by Mr. EDWARD MCPHERSON, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Congress.

The CLERK. The Journal of the proceedings of yesterday will be read.

The reading of the Journal having been begun, Mr. SPRINGER said: I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the Journal of yesterday, at least the formal parts.

The CLERK. By consent, the reading of the names of members present yesterday will be omitted. (There was no objection.) The remainder of the Journal will be read.

The reading of the Journal having been resumed and concluded,

The CLERK said: In the absence of objection the Journal as read will be approved.

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The CLERK. There being obviously a quorum present, the Clerk is ready to receive any motion looking to the organization of the House.

Mr. HOLMAN. I desire to place in nomination for the office of Speaker Hon. CHARLES F. CRISP—

The CLERK. The Clerk desires to suggest that the regular proceeding would be first a motion to proceed to the election of Speaker.

Mr. HOLMAN. I move, Mr. Clerk, that the House proceed to the election of a Speaker.

A MEMBER. And other officers.

The CLERK. The election of a Speaker is first in order.

The motion of Mr. HOLMAN was agreed to.

The CLERK. Nominations for the office of Speaker are now in order.

Mr. HOLMAN. I place in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress Hon. CHARLES F. CRISP, a Representative from the State of Georgia. [Applause on the Democratic side.]

Mr. HENDERSON of Illinois. I place in nomination for the same office Hon. THOMAS B. REED, a Representative elect from the State of Maine. [Applause on the Republican side.]

Mr. SIMPSON. I place in nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress Hon. THOMAS E. WATSON, a Representative from the State of Georgia.

There being no further nominations,

The CLERK said: The Clerk requests Mr. OUTHWAITE of Ohio, Mr. HENDERSON of Illinois, Mr. OATES of Alabama, and Mr. SIMPSON of Kansas to act as tellers. The roll will now be called; and each member as his name is reached will announce his choice for the office of Speaker. The tellers will please take their places.

The tellers having taken their places, the roll was called, with the following result:

For CHARLES F. CRISP, of Georgia, 228; for THOMAS B. REED, of Maine, 83; for THOMAS E. WATSON, of Georgia, 8; not voting, 12; as follows:

FOR CRISP—228.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Abbott, | Coolidge, | Hooker, Miss. | Patton, |
| Alderson, | Coombs, | Houk, Ohio | Paynter, |
| Alexander, | Cooper, | Johnson, Ohio | Pearson, |
| Allen, | Covert, | Johnstone, S. C. | Peel, |
| Amerman, | Cowles, | Jones, | Pendleton, |
| Andrew, | Cox, N. Y. | Kendall, | Pierce, |
| Arnold, | Cox, Tenn. | Kilgore, | Price, |
| Babbitt, | Crain, | Kribbs, | Rayner, |
| Bacon, | Crawford, | Kyle, | Reilly, |
| Bailey, | Crosby, | Lagan, | Richardson, |
| Bankhead, | Culberson, | Lane, | Robertson, La. |
| Barwig, | Cummings, | Lanham, | Rockwell, |
| Beaman, | Daniels, | Lapham, | Rusk, |
| Beltzhoover, | De Armond, | Lawson, Va. | Sayers, |
| Bentley, | De Forest, | Lawson, Ga. | Scott, |
| Blanchard, | Dickerson, | Layton, | Shelly, |
| Bland, | Dixon, | Lester, Va. | Shively, |
| Blount, | Dockery, | Lester, Ga. | Snodgrass, |
| Boatner, | Donovan, | Lewis, | Snow, |
| Bowman, | Dungan, | Little, | Sperry, |
| Branch, | Dunphy, | Livingston, | Springer, |
| Brawley, | Durbin, | Lockwood, | Stackhouse, |
| Breckinridge, Ark. | Edmunds, | Long, | Stahnecker, |
| Breckinridge, Ky. | Elliot, | Lynch, | Stevens, |
| Bretz, | Ellis, | Magner, | Steward, Ill. |
| Brickner, | English, | Mallory, | Stewart, Tex. |
| Brookshire, | Enloe, | Mansur, | Stockdale, |
| Brown, | Epes, | Martin, | Stone, Ky. |
| Brunner, | Everett, | McAleer, | Stout, |
| Bryan, | Fellows, | McClellan, | Stump, |
| Bullock, | Fitch, | McCreary, | Tarsney, |
| Bunn, | Fithian, | McDonald, | Terry, |
| Bunting, | Forman, | McGann, | Tillman, |
| Bussey, | Forney, | McKaig, | Tracey, |
| Bushnell, | Fowler, | McKinney, | Tucker, |
| Butler, | Gantz, | McMillin, | Turner, |
| Bynum, | Geary, | McRae, | Turpin, |
| Byrnes, | Geissenhainer, | Meyer, | Van Horn, |
| Cable, | Gillespie, | Miller, | Warner, |
| Cadmus, | Goodnight, | Mills, | Warwick, |
| Caminetti, | Gorman, | Mitchell, | Washington, |
| Campbell, | Grady, | Montgomery, | Weadock, |
| Capehart, | Greenleaf, | Moore, | Wheeler, Mich. |
| Caruth, | Hall, | Moses, | Wheeler, Ala. |
| Castle, | Hallowell, | Mutchler, | White, |
| Catchings, | Hamilton, | Newberry, | Whiting, |
| Cate, | Hare, | Norton, | Wike, |
| Causey, | Harries, | Oates, | Willcox, |
| Chapin, | Harter, | O'Ferrall, | Williams, N. C. |
| Chipman, | Hatch, | O'Neill, Mo. | Williams, Ill. |
| Clancy, | Hayes, | Outhwaite, | Wilson, Mo. |
| Clarke, Ala. | Haynes, | Owens, | Wilson, W. Va. |
| Cobb, Ala. | Heard, | Page, R. I. | Winn, |
| Cobb, Mo. | Hemphill, | Page, Md. | Wise, |
| Coburn, | Henderson, N. C. | Parrett, | Wolverton, |
| Cockran, | Herbert, | Patterson, Tenn. | Youmans. |
| Compton, | Holman, | Pattison, Ohio | |

FOR REED—83.

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Atkinson, | Enochs, | Lodge, | Shonk, |
| Belden, | Flick, | Loud, | Smith, |
| Belknap, | Funston, | McKenna, | Stephenson, |
| Bergen, | Griswold, | Milliken, | Stuart, Pa. |
| Bingham, | Grout, | Morse, | Stone, C. W. |
| Boutelle, | Haugen, | O'Donnell, | Stone, W. A. |
| Bowers, | Henderson, Iowa | O'Neil, Pa. | Storer, |
| Broderick, | Henderson, Ill. | Payne, | Sweet, |
| Brosius, | Hermann, | Perkins, | Taylor, Ill. |
| Buchanan, N. J. | Hitt, | Pickler, | Taylor, Tenn. |
| Burrows, | Hooker, N. Y. | Post, | Taylor, E. B. |
| Caldwell, | Hopkins, Pa. | Powers, | Taylor, J. D. |
| Cheatham, | Hopkins, Ill. | Quackenbush, | Taylor, V. A. |
| Clark, Wyo. | Houk, Tenn. | Raines, | Townsend, |
| Cogswell, | Huff, | Randall, | Wadsworth, |
| Curtis, | Hull, | Ray, | Walker, |
| Cutting, | Johnson, Ind. | Reyburn, | Waugh, |
| Dalzell, | Johnson, N. Dak. | Rife, | Weaver, |
| Dingley, | Jolley, | Robinson, Pa. | Wilson, Wash. |
| Doan, | Ketcham, | Russell, | Wright, |
| Dolliver, | Lind, | Scul, | |

FOR WATSON—8.

| | | | |
|---------|------------|------------|----------|
| Baker, | Davis, | Kemp, | Otis, |
| Clover, | Halvorsen, | McKeighan, | Simpson. |

NOT VOTING—12.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Bartine, | Fyan, | O'Neil, Mass. | Watson, |
| Buchanan, Va. | Harmer, | Reed, | Williams, Mass. |
| Crisp, | Hoar, | Sanford, | Wilson, Ky. |

The Clerk proceeded to recapitulate the vote.

Mr. KILGORE. Mr. Clerk, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the recapitulation of this vote.

The CLERK. The Clerk would suggest to the gentleman from

Texas that this is an extremely important vote, and perhaps to avoid confusion the names had better be read.

Mr. KILGORE. Very well.

Mr. BLAND. Regular order.

The Clerk resumed and concluded the recapitulation of the vote.

Mr. O'FERRALL. Mr. Clerk, I desire to state that my colleague, Mr. BUCHANAN, is detained from his seat by reason of sickness. If he were present he would vote for Mr. CRISP for Speaker.

Mr. BLAND. My colleague, Mr. FYAN, is also absent on account of sickness.

Mr. OUTHWAITE (one of the tellers). Mr. Clerk, on behalf of the tellers appointed to canvass the vote cast for Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress, I have the honor to report that CHARLES F. CRISP, of Georgia, has received, of the total number of votes cast, 228; THOMAS B. REED, of Maine, has received 83 votes, and THOMAS E. WATSON, of Georgia, has received 8 votes.

The CLERK. The tellers report that they agree in their tally, that the Hon. CHARLES F. CRISP, of the State of Georgia, has received 228 votes for Speaker; that THOMAS B. REED, of Maine, has received 83 votes, and THOMAS E. WATSON, of Georgia, has received 8 votes. Hon. CHARLES F. CRISP, of Georgia, having received a majority of all the votes cast, is declared duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Fifty-second Congress. [Loud and prolonged applause.]

The gentleman from Texas, Mr. MILLS, and the gentleman from Maine, Mr. REED, will please escort the Speaker elect to the chair; and the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. HOLMAN, will administer to him the oath of office.

Mr. MILLS and Mr. REED escorted the Speaker elect to the chair, amid applause and cheers on the floor of the House and in the galleries.

The SPEAKER. Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, for the great honor you have conferred upon me I return you heartfelt thanks.

I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of the office of Speaker with courtesy, with firmness, and with absolute impartiality. [Applause.] Let us unite in the hope that our labors here may result in the advancement of the prosperity, the honor, and the glory of our beloved country. [Loud applause.]

I am now ready to take the oath of office, and request the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. HOLMAN, to administer it.

The oath of office was then administered to the Speaker elect by Mr. HOLMAN of Indiana.

PRAYER.

The SPEAKER. The Chaplain of the last House will now offer prayer.

The Rev. Dr. MILBURN offered the following prayer:

Almighty and Eternal God, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways. We render Thee devout and hearty thanks that Thou hast brought so many of the Representatives of the people to the halls of this time-honored Capitol, consecrated by the memory of so many patriots, sages, heroes, and statesmen. Breathe into the soul of every man upon this floor a solemn sense of the lofty trust confided to him to maintain the Constitution, the dignity of the Republic, the honor, safety, and welfare of every citizen, the humblest tiller of the soil, the worker in the mine, at the forge, and in the mill, as well as the rich and prosperous.

Endue these Thy servants with largeness of mind, kindness of temper, catholicity and hospitality of spirit, with courage and devotion to the interests of their constituents and of the whole country.

Grant Thy blessing to Thy servant, the Speaker of the House, who has just taken his oath of office. Uphold him and every member of the House. Keep them in safety, health, and peace, and enable them to so discharge the duties of their trust as that the country may say, "Well done, good and faithful servants," and that the welfare of the nation shall be prospered and carried forward by their labors.

And to Thy name, O Father, shall be all the honor and glory. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER then proceeded to administer the oath of office, the Members and Delegates elect presenting themselves in front of the Speaker's chair as their names were called by States and Territories, and taking the oath of office prescribed by law.

CHANGES IN THE ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk hands to the Speaker a list of changes in the roll of members elect, some of whom have died or resigned since their election, and their places having been

filled by subsequent election. This list will be printed in the RECORD.

The list of changes is as follows:

List of changes since the election of the Fifty-second House of Representatives.

| District. | Name. | Date of vacancy. | Name of successor. |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Tenth New York..... | Francis B. Spinola* | 1891. | |
| Fifth Michigan..... | Melbourne H. Ford* | Apr. 13 | W. Bourke Cockran;† |
| Second Tennessee..... | Leonidas C. Houk* | Apr. 20 | Charles E. Belknap;† |
| South Dakota..... | John R. Gamble* | May 25 | John C. Houk. |
| Twenty-second New York..... | John R. Gamble* | Aug. 14 | John L. Jolley. |
| Twelfth New York..... | Leslie W. Russell† | Sept. 11 | Newton M. Curtis. |
| Second New York..... | Roswell P. Flower† | Sept. 16 | Joseph J. Little. |
| Eighth Virginia..... | David A. Boody† | Oct. 13 | Alfred C. Chapin. |
| | William H. F. Lee* | Oct. 15 | |

* Died. † Resigned. ‡ In a former Congress.

ELECTION OF CLERK AND OTHER OFFICERS.

Mr. HOLMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That James Kerr, of the State of Pennsylvania, be, and is hereby, elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress; That Samuel S. Yoder, of the State of Ohio, be, and is hereby, elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress; That Charles H. Turner, of the State of New York, be, and is hereby, elected Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress; and That Lycurgus Dalton, of the State of Indiana, be, and is hereby, elected Postmaster of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress.

Mr. HENDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following amendment to the resolution just read, by way of substitute, which I ask the Clerk to read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amend by striking out all after the word "*Resolved*," and insert the following:

"That Edward McPherson, of the State of Pennsylvania, be, and is hereby, elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress; "That Adoniram J. Holmes, of the State of Iowa, be, and is hereby, elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress; "That Charles W. Adams, of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, elected Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress; "That James W. Hathaway, of the State of Montana, be, and is hereby, elected Postmaster of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress; "That Charles B. Ramsdell, of the city of Washington, D. C., be, and is hereby, elected Chaplain of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress."

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HOLMAN] makes a motion, to which the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HENDERSON] submits a substitute. The question will be first upon the substitute offered by the gentleman from Illinois.

The substitute was disagreed to.

The SPEAKER. The question is now upon the original resolution offered by the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HOLMAN].

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. SPRINGER. Mr. Speaker, I desire to offer the following resolution—

The SPEAKER. The Chair requests the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. SPRINGER] to suspend until the oath of office is administered to the officers elect.

Mr. SPRINGER. The resolution which I wish to offer is in regard to the Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The resolution will be reported.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the Rev. William H. Milburn, of the State of Illinois, be, and is hereby, elected Chaplain of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

The oath of office was then administered by the Speaker to the several officers elect of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress.

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. McMILLIN. I offer the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected CHARLES F. CRISP, a Representative from the State of Georgia, Speaker, and James Kerr, a citizen of the State of Pennsylvania, the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-second Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. BLOUNT. Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives, to join the committee appointed on the

part of the Senate to wait on the President of the United States, and notify him that a quorum of the two Houses has assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to; and the Speaker appointed as such committee Mr. BLOUNT, Mr. MILLS, and Mr. REED.

Subsequently the Speaker said:

If the House will indulge the Chair for one moment, the Chair desires to say that he is informed by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. MILLS] that it is impossible for him to act on the committee to notify the President; and the Chair appoints in the place of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. MILLS] the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. BRECKINRIDGE].

DRAWING OF SEATS.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. I offer the following resolution, which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House do now proceed to draw seats for Members and Delegates for the present Congress, in pursuance of Rule XXXII of the last House, and that when the names of absent members are called seats be selected for them by colleagues.

COMMITTEE ON RULES, ETC.

Mr. SPRINGER. Mr. Speaker, I hope the gentleman will withdraw that for one moment. I desire to offer a resolution which is in order at the present time.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. Let it be withdrawn for a moment.

Mr. SPRINGER. I desire to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Speaker appoint a Committee on Rules, on Accounts, on Enrolled Bills, and on Mileage, each to consist of the same number of members as is provided for by the rules of the Fiftyth Congress, and that the rules of the Fiftyth Congress be referred to the Committee on Rules.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. HOLMAN. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. HATCH. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. OUTHWAITE. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HOLMAN].

HOOR OF DAILY MEETING.

Mr. HOLMAN. I move the adoption of the resolution which I ask the Clerk to read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That until otherwise ordered the daily hour of meeting of the House of Representatives shall be at 12 o'clock m.

The resolution was agreed to.

NOTIFICATION OF THE SENATE.

Mr. HATCH. I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That a message be sent to the Senate, to inform that body that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that CHARLES F. CRISP, a Representative from the State of Georgia, has been elected Speaker; that JAMES KERR, a citizen of the State of Pennsylvania, has been elected Clerk; and that the House is ready to proceed to business.

The resolution was agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. MCCOOK, its Secretary, announced that a quorum of the Senate had assembled, and that the Senate was ready to proceed to business.

The message further announced that a committee consisting of two members had been appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make; and that Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. HARRIS had been appointed on the part of the Senate.

DRAWING OF SEATS.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to amend the resolution I offered so as to read: "Members absent from the city and on account of illness."

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will read the resolution as modified by the gentleman from Ohio.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House do now proceed to draw seats for Members and Delegates for the present Congress, in pursuance of Rule XXXII of the last House, and that when the names of members absent from the city or on account of sickness are called seats be selected for them by colleagues.

Mr. HERMANN. I will ask the gentleman from Ohio to modify his resolution so that those who may have been requested to draw seats for absent members may be permitted to do so. I have a case of that kind.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. That will be considered as being within the scope of the resolution.

The question was taken on the resolution, and it was agreed to.

Mr. BLOUNT. Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make a statement to the House. An informal conference between members on both sides of the House has resulted in a suggestion which will be acceptable to members on both sides—that in the drawing of seats this side of the House will take the seats on this side of the

aisle and the first block of seats on the right-hand side of the aisle, or opposite, that the Republicans will take the two next blocks of seats, and the remaining seats will be selected as gentlemen may choose on drawing.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will now read the rule under which the drawing will proceed.

The Clerk read as follows:

RULE XXXII.

1. At the commencement of each Congress, immediately after the Members and Delegates are sworn in, the Clerk shall place in a box prepared for that purpose a number of small balls of marble or other material equal to the number of Members and Delegates, which balls shall be consecutively numbered and thoroughly intermingled, and at such hour as shall be fixed by the House for that purpose, by the hands of a page, draw said balls one by one from the box and announce the number as it is drawn, upon which announcement the Member or Delegate whose name on a numbered alphabetical list shall correspond with the number on the ball shall advance and choose his seat for the term for which he is elected.

2. Before said drawing shall commence each seat shall be vacated and so remain until selected under this rule, and any seat having been selected shall be deemed forfeited if left unoccupied before the call of the roll is finished, and whenever the seats of Members and Delegates shall have been drawn no proposition for a second drawing shall be in order during that Congress.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. Before proceeding further I ask unanimous consent that ex-Speakers of the House be permitted to select any seats they please.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Ohio asks unanimous consent that ex-Speakers who are members of this House be permitted to select their seats before the drawing.

Mr. OATES. Mr. Speaker, I object.

Mr. BLOUNT. I move a resolution to that effect, which I will send to the Clerk's desk.

Mr. BOUTELLE. We will take care of the matter on this side of the House.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. I make that suggestion, because it is the custom, without any breach so far as I know.

Mr. BLAND. I hope the objection will be withdrawn.

Mr. BLOUNT. Then I move that ex-Speakers who are members of this House be permitted to select their seats before the drawing takes place.

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE of Kentucky. I would suggest an addition, which has always been agreed to—that the oldest member, who by courtesy is termed "the father of the House," have the same privilege.

Mr. OUTHWAITE. On each side.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will state to the House that there is a resolution on the Clerk's desk which was prepared by the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BLOUNT], which proposes to cover both cases, and if there be no objection it will be read by the Clerk.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That all ex-Speakers of the House of Representatives, duly elected members of the Fifty-second Congress, and that all Representatives in said Congress who have been elected to fourteen Congresses, shall be called first in the order of their service and allowed to select their respective seats before the regular drawing for seats commences.

The SPEAKER. The Chair suggests that that covers the ex-Speaker, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HOLMAN] on the one side, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. O'NEILL] on the other. [Cries of "Vote!"]

The question was taken, and the resolution was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to state to members of the House that there has heretofore been some complaint in respect to this drawing which the Chair thinks can be obviated in this way, that when a member's name is called and until he comes forward and takes his seat no other name be called. [Cries of "That is right!"] Sometimes the rapidity with which the names are called militates really against the object and purpose of the rule, which is that when a gentleman's name is called he can select any unoccupied seat. The Chair will therefore direct the Clerk to call the roll in such a manner that until a gentleman called is seated no other name on the roll shall be called. The Clerk will now call the names of the gentlemen excepted by the resolution.

The names of Mr. REED, Mr. O'NEILL of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HOLMAN were then called, and they selected their seats.

The drawing was then proceeded with, commencing at 1:50 p. m. and concluding at 3:15 p. m., the name of Mr. WHEELER of Michigan being first called and that of Mr. PARRETT being last called.

The SPEAKER. The order of the House under the resolution has been executed.

Mr. DINGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I desire to inform the Chair that I think my name has not been called.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk reports that the gentleman's name was called, and was checked as "called" on the list.

Mr. DINGLEY. I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that I was attending closely to the call and did not hear my name, nor did other gentlemen near me.

The Clerk called Mr. DINGLEY'S name.

The House then, on motion of Mr. SPRINGER (at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p. m.), adjourned.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, December 9, 1891.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. J. G. BUTLER, D. D.

The Journal of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved.

NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. HARRIS, the committee appointed, in conjunction with a similar committee of the House of Representatives, to wait upon the President of the United States, appeared below the bar, and

Mr. SHERMAN said: Mr. President, the committee on behalf of the two Houses appointed to wait upon the President of the United States, and to inform him that a quorum of the two Houses is present, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make, have performed their duty, and are advised that the President will communicate to the two Houses immediately in writing.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

At 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p. m., Mr. O. L. PRUDEN, one of the secretaries of the President of the United States, appeared below the bar and said:

Mr. President, I am directed by the President of the United States to deliver to the Senate a message in writing.

The message was received from the secretary and handed to the Vice-President.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the annual message of the President of the United States, which the Secretary will read.

The Secretary of the Senate (Mr. ANSON G. MCCOOK) read the message, as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The reports of the heads of the several Executive Departments, required by law to be submitted to me, which are herewith transmitted, and the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney-General, made directly to Congress, furnish a comprehensive view of the administrative work of the last fiscal year relating to internal affairs. It would be of great advantage if these reports could have an attentive perusal by every member of Congress and by all who take an interest in public affairs. Such a perusal could not fail to excite a higher appreciation of the vast labor and conscientious effort which are given to the conduct of our civil administration.

The reports will, I believe, show that every question has been approached, considered, and decided from the standpoint of public duty and upon considerations affecting the public interests alone. Again I invite to every branch of the service the attention and scrutiny of Congress.

The work of the State Department during the last year has been characterized by an unusual number of important negotiations and by diplomatic results of a notable and highly beneficial character. Among these are the reciprocal trade arrangements which have been concluded, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the tariff law, with the Republic of Brazil, with Spain for its West India possessions, and with San Domingo. Like negotiations with other countries have been much advanced, and it is hoped that before the close of the year further definitive trade arrangements of great value will be concluded.

In view of the reports which had been received as to the diminution of the seal herds in the Bering Sea I deemed it wise to propose to Her Majesty's Government in February last that an agreement for a closed season should be made, pending the negotiations for arbitration which then seemed to be approaching a favorable conclusion. After much correspondence, and delays for which this Government was not responsible, an agreement was reached and signed on the 15th of June, by which Great Britain undertook, from that date and until May 1, 1892, to prohibit the killing by her subjects of seals in the Bering Sea, and the Government of the United States, during the same period, to enforce its existing prohibition against pelagic sealing and to limit the catch by the Fur Seal Company upon the islands to 7,500 skins. If this agreement could have been reached earlier, in response to the strenuous endeavors of this Government, it would have been more effective; but, coming even as late as it did, it unquestionably resulted in greatly diminishing the destruction of the seals by the Canadian sealers.

In my last annual message I stated that the basis of arbitration proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the adjustment of the long-pending controversy as to the seal fisheries was not accept-